

From: [Craig Carroll](#)
To: [Susan Webster](#)
Cc: [John Martin](#); [Steve Mason](#); [R6_DWH_REOC_RIC@epa.gov](#); [Nancy Jones](#)
Subject: Fw: [Fwd: Re: Testing of beached wildlife]
Date: 05/14/2010 07:46 AM

FYI. Ran to ground the RA's question about marine mammal necropsies. Also verified with Nancy Jones that OSHA does have access to our data through Scribe. Nancy and/or EU can provide specific information on when OSHA was given access and if/how they are using our data.

Craig Carroll
Chief, Emergency Readiness Section
EPA Region 6
Ph: 214-665-2220
Fax: 214-665-9718

----- Forwarded by Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US on 05/14/2010 07:35 AM -----

From: Troy Baker <Troy.Baker@noaa.gov>
To: Charlie Henry <Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov>
Cc: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Christopher Plaisted <Christopher.Plaisted@noaa.gov>
Date: 05/13/2010 11:08 PM
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: Testing of beached wildlife]

Charlie,
I'm not sure whether Craig's question is referring to whether dispersants would cause mortality or whether marine mammal mortalities that potentially did occur are evaluated for potential detrimental impacts from dispersants. For the purposes of the response.....In the former situation, I'm not aware of any research that explicitly uses marine mammals as test subjects related to various doses of dispersants in the water column that control for the size and type of marine mammal. The question of possible toxicity would be related to an actual dose in the water column, pathway for exposure, animal size, etc., which is very difficult to measure - both in the water and in terms of uptake with the animal via some physical mechanism. In the latter scenario, I'm not aware of tissue analyses, blood or other bodily fluid analyses, skin tests, or other methods during a standard marine mammal necropsy procedure that would give insight into dispersants as the cause or contributing to the cause of death or harm to a marine mammal. I haven't had time to search the literature or talk to experts but I'm not aware of anything relevant off the top of my head.

Again for the purposes of the response, I think that toxicity tests would not give you the complete answer you needed because you would need to figure out the dose per unit volume of water and know information about the animal(s) in the field before drawing conclusions. Further, the toxicity tests would likely use surrogate animals rather than marine mammals, which may add additional uncertainty when drawing technical conclusions from the data.

This subject area is not my area of expertise so I'm not able to give a recommendation about next steps. Troy

Charlie Henry wrote:

> Hi Troy,
> Do you have any insight to this question from our EPA partners?
> Thanks in advance,
> Charlie
>
> -----

>
> Subject:
> Re: Testing of beached wildlife
> From:
> Carroll.Craig@epamail.epa.gov
> Date:
> Thu, 13 May 2010 18:38:55 -0500
> To:
> Charlie Henry <Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov>
>
> To:
> Charlie Henry <Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov>
> CC:
> "frank.csulak" <Frank.Csulak@noaa.gov>, Gary Shigenaka
> <Gary.Shigenaka@noaa.gov>, R6_DWH_REOC_RIC@epamail.epa.gov,
> stephen_spencer@ios.doi.gov, Mason.Steve@epamail.epa.gov
>
>
> Charlie,
>
> The question I am trying to answer for senior managers is are the
> trustees determining if dispersant use is contributing to marine
> mammal mortality? Perhaps a summary of toxicity test your guys are
> running would answer that concisely. Recommendation?
>
> Craig Carroll
> Chief, Emergency Readiness Section
> EPA Region 6
> Ph: 214-665-2220
> Fax: 214-665-9718
>
>
> From: Charlie Henry <Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov>
> To: Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "frank.csulak"
> <Frank.Csulak@noaa.gov>, Gary Shigenaka <Gary.Shigenaka@noaa.gov>
> Cc: stephen_spencer@ios.doi.gov, Steve Mason/R6/USEPA/US@EPA,
> "Hanzalik, James CDR" <James.E.Hanzalik@uscg.mil>, "Goetzee, William"
> <William.W.Goetzee@uscg.mil>, dwight.bradshaw@la.gov,
> jeff.dauzat@la.gov, R6 DWH REOC RIC@EPA, Susan Webster/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
> Date: 05/11/2010 10:25 AM
> Subject: Re: Testing of beached wildlife
>
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> These are NOAA resources and NOAA NMS folks including our protected
> species enforcement folks are directly involved. Specifically to
> dispersants, I don't know if they have a chemical test. They do know
> how to assess if oil played a role. We take each report of a dead or
> injured marine mammal very seriously. One thing to note is that,
> unfortunately, marine mammals and sea turtles do die every year for
> other causes including impacts from vessels and natural causes. During
> a major spill response, more are observed because more folks are
> looking. We have a team of NOAA marine mammal and turtle folks based
> out of the Houma command post (and full time folks throughout the GOM
> region). I'll have my folks in Houma follow up your inquiry. Take care,
> Charlie
>
> Frank and Gary,
> Could you follow up on this or pass it to the correct person that can
> give the best response to the EPA. Thanks,
> Charlie
>
> Carroll.Craig@epamail.epa.gov wrote:
> > Charlie/Steve,
> >
> > Noted they did necropsies on the turtles that recently beached and
> > also my RA asked about a report of beached whales and dolphins. Who
> > performs necropsies on these and do they test for toxicity of
> > dispersant when they do? Thanks
> >
> > Craig Carroll
> > Chief, Emergency Readiness Section

> > EPA Region 6
> > Ph: 214-665-2220
> > Fax: 214-665-9718
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Troy Baker, SE Branch Chief (Acting)
NOAA National Ocean Service
Office of Response & Restoration / Assessment & Restoration Division
LSU Sea Grant Building, Room 124B
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(cell) 225-326-9765
(office) 225-578-7921
(fax) 225-578-7926